Devices Studies

A traffic control devices study can insure that the devices are adequate and placed where needed. Such studies are performed initially on an installation and then periodically. This periodic checking may be weekly or monthly, based on checking specified geographic areas or simply through using patrol reports on a daily basis.

There are three types of control devices that may be studied separately or in combination:

Signs

Used to regulate, warn or guide traffic. These are studied to:

- Evaluate conditions
- Inventory
- Location
- Adequacy of the intended message.

Signals

Used to regulate, warn or guide traffic. The purpose of these power-operated devices is the same as for signs.

Pavement Markings

Used to regulate, warn or guide. These are the lines, patterns, words and other devices set into pavement or curbing. They are all studied for the same reasons.

Conducting a Study

Two-person teams, on foot or in vehicles, are used to conduct traffic control devices studies. An

orderly system of travel should be organized for them and other teams used in each study. The study may be organized into day and night operations to compare differences. Special equipment should include:

- Manual on traffic control devices.
- Stopwatch.
- Tape measure (100 foot).
- Field sheets for collecting data (samples on next pages).

Signs Study

Things to be checked on signs are:

- Type (stop, yield, right curve, etc.).
- Size and Shape.
- Color.
- Reflectorized or not (how).
- Location of Sign (street, distance from pavement or curb, distance from intersection, height).
- Visibility (size, location, lettering and maintenance).

Signals Study

Phasing of signals is checked through several cycles with the stopwatch. It's helpful to make sketches of signals to understand the timing, phasing and sequence of signals. They are checked for:

- Type (fixed time, flashing, full traffic actuated).
- Location and position.
- Physical Information (size, color, number of lights).
- Timing of Each Phase (green, red and amber time).
- Phasing (time the light is applicable to each direction at an intersection. For example, green on Main Street for 45 seconds, and green on the intersecting street for 30 seconds.).

Pavement Markings Study

Use the odometer of the vehicle to measure length of lines. Markings are checked for:

- Visibility (condition and reflectiveness).
- Type (solid, double lines, left turn lanes, etc.).
- Material used (paint, glass, etc.).
- Measurements (line length and width).

Compiling Information

Information and data collected in this study may be recorded manually in a card file loose-leaf notebook, or through machine processing (ADP) using standard 80-column punch cards. Records of the study should be maintained in the traffic section of the provost marshal office.

Using Information

- The traffic section should maintain maps of the installation and use overlays, markings, or colored pins to portray the location of traffic control devices and any special problems.
- Studies can be used to justify requests for corrective action, to include maintenance or standardization.
- Information can be collated with a study of high accident locations to determine standards of visibility, safety and maintenance.
- Studies of devices can be used with traffic capacity or volume studies to insure maximum safe flow of traffic.
- Devices studies can be used to recommend changes in devices due to revised laws or regulations.
- Studies can provide backup information on road reconnaissance and classification.

DATE 5 June

SHEET 1 of 10

STREET 1st FROM Provost Ave. TO Marshal Ave.

LENGTH 600' WIDTH 30'

Side of Street	Type or Legend	Size & Shape	Color	Type of Reflectorization	Position			Remarks
					Height	Distance from Highway	Distance from Corner	
North	Stop	30"	Red	Sheeting	7'-0"	6'-0"	10'-0"	
North	Curve	24"x24"	Yellow	Sheeting	6'-8"	4'-8"	300'	

DATE 5 JUNE

SHEET 2 of 12 SHEETS

LINES					LEGENDS & SYMBOLS			
LOCATION	TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	MATERIAL	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	DIMENSION OF LETTERS
Provost Ave. to Marshal Ave.	Center-line	600'	4'	White Paint	Provost Ave. west of 1st St.	Crosswalk	White Paint	

Samples of Field Sheets for Collecting Study Data

SIGNAL INVENTORY

FIELD SHEET

DATE _____ **SHEET** _____ **OF** _____ **SHEETS**

LOCATION _____

CONTROLLER TYPE _____

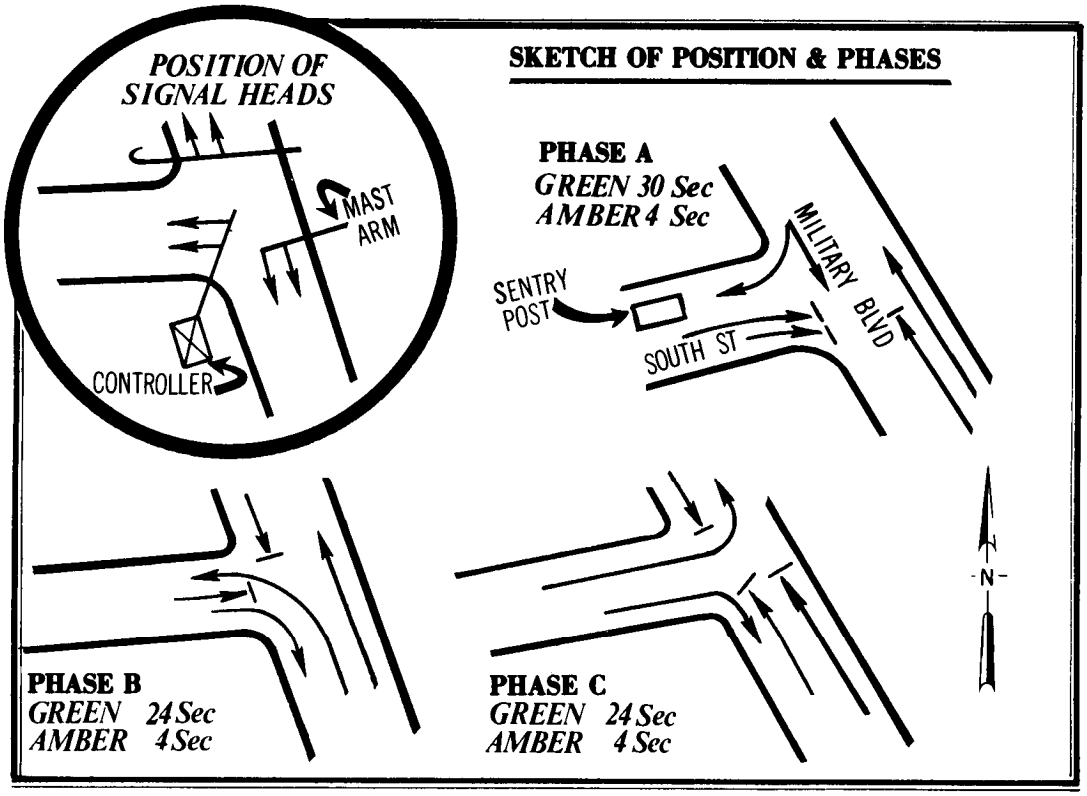
DIAL SETTINGS _____

ACTUATED TIMING _____

NO & SIZE OF HEADS _____

NO & TYPE OF DETECTORS _____

REMARKS _____



Signal Inventory Field Sheet